

### *Project will Support 45 Construction Jobs and Receive \$8.58 Million in Federal Recovery Act Funding*

*Newburgh, NY* - Congressman Maurice Hinchey (D-NY) today joined New York State Department of Transportation Acting Commissioner Stanley Gee to announce the start of the much-needed reconstruction of Robinson Avenue/Route 9W. Newburgh Mayor Nick Valentine, State Senator William Larkin, and Assemblyman Frank Skartados were also on hand for the groundbreaking.

"This is another example of how the Recovery Act is continuing to create jobs and benefit generations to come by improving local infrastructure," said Hinchey. "Anyone who lives in Newburgh knows that the reconstruction of Robinson Avenue has been sorely needed for several years. I'm delighted that we were able to secure the necessary federal resources to move forward with it and substantially decrease the local costs for the project."

The project will support up to 45 construction related jobs while upgrading and improving Route 9W from the Newburgh City line at North Plank Road south to First Street. This 1.2 mile corridor serves as a gateway to the City of Newburgh from the north and from nearby Interstate 84, making this project essential to improving the first impression visitors receive upon entering the city.

"I am very pleased that after so many years this project is finally beginning. In these difficult economic times we are grateful to Federal and State agencies and our elected officials for making this project possible," added Mayor Valentine.

The cost of the project, not including sewer and water improvements, is projected to be approximately \$11.4 million. Of this amount, \$8.58 million will be reimbursed to the city through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which Congressman Hinchey helped pass in 2009. The city will also receive other federal and state funding for the project, including more than \$745,000 in federal Transportation Improvement Program funds and nearly \$140,000 in matching New York State Transportation funding. The final cost to the city of Newburgh will be just under \$2 million.

New York State Department of Transportation Acting Commissioner Stanley Gee said, "The reconstruction of Robinson Avenue is vital to the growth and development of the City of Newburgh. I am pleased to see that this stimulus-funded project is being constructed by a local contractor, which will keep jobs right here in Newburgh."

The project's general contractor, Argenio Brothers of New Windsor, has successfully completed other important projects in the region, including the recent work at Exit 5 on Interstate 84. When the project is completed in October 2011, this important gateway to the City will be safer for drivers and pedestrians, including students who walk to North Junior High School.

Hinchey strongly supported and voted to pass the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act which has already saved or created more than two million jobs – rebuilding our infrastructure and economy for global competitiveness. Through the Recovery Act, 95 percent of working Americans continue to see the benefit of one of the largest tax cuts in history in every paycheck. With Hinchey's support, the House also passed the comprehensive Jobs for Main Street Act in December 2009 to make targeted investments in areas that will grow our economy over the long term – including highways, public transit, construction, small businesses, job training, and hiring and retaining teachers, police officers, and firefighters.

More recently, Hinchey voted for, and the president signed into law, comprehensive health insurance reform that will create up to four million jobs over the next decade. The president also recently signed the bipartisan HIRE act, also supported by Hinchey, which is projected to create up to 300,000 jobs with investments in small businesses and infrastructure.